

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Hoquiam Detachment Kept Busy

Troopers assigned to the Hoquiam Detachment of the Washington State Patrol kept busy arresting impaired drivers this weekend. Starting at 1:30 a.m. Friday morning, and continuing straight through until 11:15 p.m. Sunday, troopers arrested eleven drivers for driving under the influence. Grays Harbor County has already witnessed one loss of life in 2007 due to an impaired driver, and troopers are committed to removing as many impaired drivers as they can. Lieutenant Steve Smeland stated, "I'm extremely proud of the efforts of those troopers assigned to Grays Harbor County. They are clearly making a difference in ensuring a safe environment for the motorists of Grays Harbor County."

Eleven impaired drivers arrested is a higher than average weekend for troopers working out of the Hoquiam Detachment. In 2006 troopers assigned to the Hoquiam Detachment arrested 399 impaired drivers compared to 353 in 2005, and 312 in 2004. With DUI arrests increasing over the last couple years, and with a busy start to 2007 troopers want to remind drivers of the importance of not driving after consuming alcohol or drugs.

- Designate your sober driver before heading out.
- Give your designated driver your car keys and your appreciation for making sure you get home safely.
- Before you go out, program the numbers for local cab companies in your cell phone so if you find yourself in need of a ride, it is just one touch away.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself—eat enough food, take breaks and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.
- Always buckle up – it's your best defense against impaired drivers.

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District Eight

Clallam*Jefferson*Kitsap*Mason*Grays Harbor*Pacific*Wahkiakum